

K-568

1881-82

Site of Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church

Locust Grove

Private

Located until its collapse in the late 1970s adjacent to the Locust Grove General Store (K-567), the Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church was an interesting and unusual frame Victorian Gothic Revival church with a handsome gable-roofed nave section and a rather ungainly, plain, gable-roofed side tower at the second bay on the long northwest side. Gable end facing the road, the church was entered through the tower's double doors, which had a lancet-arched transom. The lancet-arch theme was repeated in the tall, double-hung windows of the nave's four-bay sides and in the large arch created by applied, wide trim on the German shiplap weatherboarding of the approach gable end. Within this large arch was a spaced pair of the arched windows; at the springing line was a round window with quatrafoil wooden tracery that lit the gallery. Board-and-batten siding with an interesting lower edge was in the gable. This church was unusual among county Methodist churches of the period in having no small chancel projection. Instead that end had a large, multi-light, rectangular window with stencilled, vivid-colored glass. Closing for regular services in the 1930s, this church's rise and decline paralleled those of the village of Locust Grove itself.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

Second lot northwest of intersection of Rt. 447 and Shallcross
street & number Neck Road. _____ not for publication

city, town Locust Grove _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maryland _____ county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
<u>X</u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	___ no	___ military	<u>X</u> other: garden

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William V. McCann

street & number 140 W. Tenth Street telephone no.: 212-691-4593

city, town New York state and zip code New York 10014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 51

street & number Cross Street folio 651

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. K-568

Site Only

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Standing in the village of Locust Grove next to the Locust Grove General Store from 1882 to its collapse in the 1970s, the Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church was a small but tall, frame, gable-roofed two-part building in a rural Victorian Gothic Revival style. Southwest gable end facing the public road the nave was entered (under the gallery that spanned the southwest end) through a double-doored tower that stood near the southwest corner of the main section, at the second side bay of four. Notable plain, the gable-roofed tower was evocative of a grain elevator. Thus uninterrupted by an entry, the center third of the approach end of the nave received an unusual design treatment. A large, centered lancet arch created by wide split-face trim applied to the German shiplap weatherboard rose from window-sill level into the gable. Within the arch was a spaced pair of tall, narrow, double-hung, lancet-arched windows, their outside trim abutting the sides of the applied arch. At about the large arch's springing line was a round window with quatrafoil wood tracery, to light the gallery. Above the springing line of the applied arch and above the arch, within the gable, the siding changed to vertical board and batten, the lower edges of the boards sawn into scallops and the battens extending below the boards. Windows in the long nave sides and in the side bays of the rear gable were also double-hung and lancet-arched, with stencilled colored glass. There was no chancel projection but a large, centered, multi-light rectangular window with bright-colored glass in the rear gable end. A secondary entry, into a vestibule with stair to the gallery and door to the nave, was in the first bay of the southeast side. On the interior walls were plastered above vertical-board "striped" wainscoting.

After standing unused and increasingly dilapidated for many years, the 1881-82 frame, vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival Methodist Episcopal chapel in the crossroads village of Locust Grove collapsed in the late 1970s. It stood in the second town-sized lot in the northwest quadrant formed by the intersection of the old main Kennedyville-Galena road with the Shallcross Neck road and one access road to the Shrewsbury Neck Road. The axis of the chapels's main section ran southwest-northeast; its front gable end faced the public road running northwest from the intersection to the main Shrewsbury Neck road and was set back about 30 feet from that road.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-568

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1881–1882 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Methodist Church at Locust was a notable small frame rural Victorian Gothic Revival style church. However, it differed significantly from other Kent County rural frame churches of the same period that were also adaptations of the same style. Seeking to return to medieval ideals, Victorian Gothic Revival churches emphasized verticality, a reaching for the heavens. The Locust Grove church accordingly had a quite steeply pitched main roof, a large applied facade arch, tall and narrow lancet-arched windows, overhanging unboxed eaves with no returns, and some vertical board and batten siding. Unlike most other local frame churches of the period, its plan was not three-part: entry tower centered on nave gable end, nave, and small chancel projection at the opposite, or rear, gable end. Instead there was a side tower with entry and no chancel projection. There was also a gallery although galleries were not generally built in Kent County churches this late, their use being associated with earlier church attendance by blacks. By this late in the nineteenth century Methodist churches were segregated. It is not known whether this church was built from a purchased plan provided by a central church group or by such noted Gothic Revival architects as Richard Upjohn, Frank Wills, John Notman, or J. W. Priest, who did provide simple rural-church plans for local builders to follow. However, this building is unusual enough to have been not entirely the product of local thinking. The rise and decline of the Locust Grove congregation paralleled that of the village of Locust Grove itself. Optimally located for late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century transportation modes and limitations, Locust Grove grew, seeming to become an important county trading and service center. Civic pride and the desire for a convenient church made this church one of many established in Kent County villages during this period. With the population shifts of the twentieth century, the coming of the motor vehicle, the ending of nearby steamboat service, and, finally, the relocation of the main highway that passed through the village, both the church and the village became relics.

(Continued)

Survey No. K-568

Phone conversation with Miss Helen Shallcross, Rock Hall, Md. 21661.

(Continued)

Quadrangle scale _____

H | | | | | | | | | |

The building was two-part: a main section, or nave, and a side tower. There was no chancel projection. The remains of the superstructure were removed or buried within the main section foundation area, which is still somewhat sunken. In recent years the area within the old foundation, which survives largely intact, has been used for a vegetable and flower garden. A 25-foot tree now grows in the approximate center. During the summer of 1985 the old Locust Grove Public School (K-566), formerly located several lots to the northwest on the same road on which the church fronted, was moved to the rear of the nearly half-acre church lot, which slopes slightly to the rear. There was never a graveyard for this church.

The present owner, who also owned the property at the time of the chapel's collapse and removal, states that the main section measured 24'-0" wide x 48'-0" deep. Rough measurement on the site yielded approximate dimensions of about 28'-0" wide x 50'-0" deep. In the southeastern quadrant within the foundation was a deep (ca. 8'-0"), brick-walled (except for the front wall), dirt-floored cellar, perhaps for a floor furnace that utilized the small, square chimney which rose within the southeast side wall between the first and second bays, though a nave stove may have been vented originally into this chimney. The owner could not recall whether there had been a second chimney in the northwestern section of the chapel; if so, it would have been for a stove. The remainder of the foundation area was a crawl space. The front gable-end foundation is of rubble-laid stone, both fieldstones and what appears to be rough-cut Port Deposit granite. Elsewhere the foundation is brick or brick above fieldstone. The nature of the foundation of the tower, located on the northwest side, where it was set back at the second bay, could not be determined by examination of the present site; nor could its size be determined on site. From photographs taken about 1973, it is estimated that the tower, in plan, measured approximately 8'-0" square. The church's large, dated, marble cornerstone has been retained by the present owner.

The superstructure of both main section and tower was frame, with stud wall construction and gable roofs that appear to have had the same pitch. The one-story nave walls were tall, as is usual in churches of this period and style; there was a gallery across the southwest (approach) gable end. On the interior, walls were lathed, plastered and painted above window sill level; below was an unusual narrow vertical-board wainscoting, which appears in photographs as alternately light and dark, giving a vertical stripe effect. On the exterior the side walls and rear gable-end wall were clad in German shiplap. There were wide double cornerboards, with applied battens at each vertical edge, giving a recessed plain-panel effect to these pilasters. The same weatherboarding and cornerboards were used on the tower. Below the weatherboarding and panelled cornerboards, at the foundation, was a wide, plain band-board.

The main section's approach gable end, through which there was no entry, was treated differently and may be unique in Kent County church construction. Visually, it was divided vertically into approximate thirds, with attention focused on the center third. Beginning at window-sill level, a large lancet arch outlined by applied, wide, split-faced trim rose beyond eave level and into the gable. Overall, it may have measured about 7-8 feet wide by 16-19 feet tall. Within the arch was a spaced pair of tall, narrow, double-hung, lancet-arched windows; the wide, plain outside trim of each abutted the sides

of the large arch. Centered at about the large, outlined arch's springing line was a round window with plain, wide trim and wood tracery in a quatrefoil pattern with a center circle. This window, to light the gallery, was similar to the "rose" window at the extant brick Olivet Methodist Church in Galena (K-585) and probably was purchased, along with the lancet-arched windows, at a millwork supply house specializing in components for church construction. Within the large arch the ground was German shiplap. The gable end outside the arch on each side and to the height of the springing line was also covered with the horizontal German shiplap, the courses aligning with those within the arch. The springing line was higher than eave, or side-wall plate, level, the usual point for any change in gable-end cladding. Above the arch's springing-line height, and around the top of the arch, the gable cladding is vertical board-and-batten, whose lower edges overlay the top course of plain horizontal weatherboard. These lower edges were sawn and arranged to present an unusual pattern. The lower edge of each board (with a reveal width between battens of ca. 7-8") was cut into a single scallop. The narrower batten ends appear square-cut but extend below the scalloped board ends. This gable-end treatment is not used on the tower, where continuous horizontal weatherboarding is used throughout.

The sides of the main section (probably both four bays deep) and the side bays of the three-bay rear gable end were pierced by the same tall, narrow, double-hung lancet-arched windows as the front gable-end. On the southeast side in the first bay from the front was a secondary-entry, with a large (ca. 2' x 4') granite stepping stone (which remains) set flush with the ground. Above the door was a transom bar at the springing line of the lancet-arched transom above; this arch's apex aligned with those of the three single windows evenly spaced in the side wall toward the rear.

The entry tower was outside the second bay of the main section's northwest side. In the first side bay of the main section, in the ell formed by the tower, was a single window. It is not clear whether the northwest side to the rear of the tower had two windows or three; most likely there were two.

The central bay of the rear (northeast) gable end (no photograph available) was said to have a large rectangular window (ca. 8' x 8') divided into many lights, each perhaps about 8" x 10" or 10" x 12".

The present owner was able to save small portions of the church's window glass. The double-hung windows appear to have had mono-color stencilled lights. One light with an applied ground color of faded deep red (or Spanish brown) and a pattern appearing to be etched (though it was not) was seen during the field visit, as was another piece of glass with a ground color of light brown. Whether only these two colors were used is now not known. It also is not clear whether these were mixed in the same windows. The geometric pattern itself suggested lancet arches. Some clear glass in deep, vivid colors (blue, red) was also saved; here the stencilled pattern was black. The owner thought this kind of glass came from the large, northeast gable-end window.

The tower appears to have been unusual among Kent County churches of the period. Unlike those seen elsewhere, the Locust Grove church's tower was

not particularly tall (perhaps not taller than the main section), nor was it divided visually into several levels (usually three), with openings of some sort on each level, the top-most usually a belfry. In contrast to other local towers, this one could not be described as attractive and graceful. Very plain in overall appearance, it was most evocative of a gable-roofed grain elevator. Apparently never housing a bell, the tower was weatherboarded continuously to the roof except for two openings: the church's main entry in the gable end facing the road and a single lancet window in the northwest side on the entry level that was shorter and narrower than the main section windows. Once in the vestibule, parishioners turned right to enter the nave, under the gallery. The tower doors were double and panelled. The architrave was the same lancet-arch shape used elsewhere. The transom bar was located at about the arch's springing line; the tall arched area above probably was colored or stencilled glass. Three concrete steps which led to the main entry, but also turning the southwest corner, remain; overall they measure about 8'-6" wide x 5'-6" deep. A large granite stepping stone (about 2' x 4') was set into the ground at the steps; a brick walk set in sand led from it to another, similar stone near the road.

The secondary entry, in the front-corner bay of the southeast side, led into a small vestibule. Straight ahead was the four-panel door with white porcelain knob that led into the nave, under the gallery that spanned the southwest gable end. To the left, in the corner, was a quarter-turn stair that began its run with three or four steps along the southeast wall, then completed its longer, main run against the front gable wall. The gallery, 8-10 feet deep, was described as having had a solid balustrade at its front, with folding doors above, allowing the gallery to be closed off at will, an unusual feature which may have been intended partly for heat conservation in the cold months. Door and interior trim were dark, probably stain and varnish or age-darkened varnish; the vestibule walls were plaster above the "striped" wainscoting.

The wood-shingled nave and tower roofs, whose ridges were parallel and whose fairly steep pitches appear the same, were similarly constructed in a manner typical of rural, frame Victorian Gothic Revival churches, with their emphasis on verticality. Therefore, there were no roof returns, a bold horizontal element, as seen in the Greek Revival churches built in the county just a few years earlier. The main section overhang on sides and ends appears to have been ca. 10-12"; the tower's was proportionately smaller. The cornice was not boxed, but the soffit was open, exposing the overhanging rafter ends (cut vertically, not at 90 degree angles) and look-outs. There was a fascia board on rafter ends and lookouts.

The two-story, ca. 1870 Locust Grove General Store (K-567), with its perpendicular attached dwelling, is on the adjacent corner lot to the southeast. On the other side of the church lot, on the third lot from the intersection, is a two-story dwelling; a tall picket fence and tall shrubs extend along much of the boundary. Trees are at the rear boundary of the church lot, with tilled fields beyond. Across the road to the southwest, tilled fields are beyond a lawn with a trailer at its edge. Across the road to the south, at the corner, is a two-story late nineteenth century house with outbuildings and stored cars.

Locust Grove developed as a crossroads village during the second half of the nineteenth century. It was advantageously located on a northward jog of the old main road leading northeast and then east from Chestertown to Georgetown, Galena and Sassafras. This road, dating from the colonial period, skirted the necks of the Sassafras River to the north, crossing the creeks that divided them where easily forded or bridged. In the twentieth century this road became Route 213, the first Kent County road to be improved (first slagged, then concrete-paved). Secondary roads that were first mere farm lanes but eventually became public roads extended north in the approximate center of most of the necks. It was at the junction of the road to Shallcross Neck and the main road that Locust Grove developed, with the road to Shrewsbury Neck nearby (later with a spur directly into Locust Grove). As early as 1866, if not earlier, the road to Shallcross Neck was called a public road. Nearby to the south was a secondary road leading to the village of Chesterville (originally called New Market); less than halfway distant was Black's (Railroad) Station. Located about equidistant from the larger villages of Kennedyville to the southwest on the main road and Galena to the east, Locust Grove came to be a "team-haul" community, more convenient for the surrounding population to visit for services by horse-power than the two more distant villages.

The 1860 Martenet's Map of Kent County shows early development at Locust Grove, though perhaps incompletely. However, no name designates the community as was the case on an 1877 map. Only two buildings are shown, perhaps a store (perhaps combined with a "shoe shop," meaning a blacksmith shop) and perhaps a school--the map is not very legible). However, the surviving school, K-566, (for which the land was conveyed in 1873 to the County School Commissioners) dates from no earlier than 1867. The 1867 report of the president of the Board of School Commissioners states that "The sum of three thousand dollars was levied to erect a new house at Locust Grove...." The "store" appears to be in the approximate location of K-567, a two-story general store thought to date from late 1870. The 1860 map suggests, however, that both an earlier store and earlier school may have predated the surviving ones in what appears to be about the same locations in the intersection's northwest quadrant although Mrs. Ralph Miller states that an earlier store, dating at least to the Civil War, was located in the intersection's southwestern quadrant, though not necessarily in the corner lot. Another confusing element is added by the statement in the deed for the store property from William Shallcross to Samuel J. Hill in 1872 that the lot was then "occupied by James Pennington as a Restaurant." (JKH 10/662) The owner of Castle Carey Farm to the north, Shallcross seems to have acquired all the property in the northwest quadrant of the intersection in 1866 as part of a parcel of 87+ acres, from the estate of James Woodland, which in 1861 was stated to have no buildings on it. (Land Records JKH 9/449; Chancery JKH 2/634) Either the surviving store is the same building used for the restaurant, replaced it, or incorporates it.

A more detailed map in the 1877 Atlas of Kent County still shows only two buildings in the northwestern quadrant. K-567, now called the Locust Grove General Store was owned by S. J. Hill; the store appears also to have contained the village post office in 1877. Oral testimony, however, states that George M. Beasten, Hill's son-in-law, built the store in 1870 and thereafter was its proprietor. Beasten already may have been the proprietor

under Shallcross' ownership; he did later come to own the property. The 1867 school (designated School No. 3 in its district, perhaps replacing an earlier school) was the only other building shown in that quadrant. Growth of the village between 1860 and 1877 is indicated by additional site designations. A store-residence on the southwest corner, across the road from the first store, was owned by C. H. J. Sparks. The advertisement taken by Sparks and on the same map page (but mistakenly locating his business in Kennedyville) states:

C. H. J. SPARKS, Proprietor of Cash Store. Is now offering to the public a full line of Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and other Articles usually kept in a country store. Ready-made Clothing always on hand, or ordered at short notice. My Goods were bought for cash, and can offer better bargains than can be obtained elsewhere. I intend to sell for cash or country Produce....

Another Sparks, B. F. J., was the proprietor of what later came to be called the Davis Hill Mill (K-295), less than two miles to the east of Locust Grove, perhaps providing a supply tie-in with the store.

The southeast quadrant formed by the crossroads appears to have been the most developed. On the corner was a "blacksmith and wagon shop." The blacksmith shop was said to have endured for many years, finally moving operations to the rear of the farm known as Ivingo (K-565). Adjacent to the southwest were a store and then two buildings owned by a J. Willis, perhaps also the owner of the store. To the southeast of the corner was a building belonging to E. Anderson, perhaps housing the business for which he placed a narrative ad:

E. ANDERSON, Wheelwright. All kinds of Repairing done, such as Carts, Wagons and Carriages, and all Farming Implements manufactured and Repaired. All kinds of Wood Work done to order...

Adjacent to the southeast was what may have been Anderson's residence. A Mrs. Druhan was next (presumably a dwelling), and at the end of row was the residence of J. Willis. No buildings are shown in the northeastern quadrant, probably the farm fields of Woodland Hall (K-144).

Clearly Locust Grove had enjoyed much growth within the 17 years between 1860 and 1877. Growth appeared to continue after 1877 as well, though at a reduced rate. At least several frame, two-story village dwellings now extant but not shown on the 1877 map appear to date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In December, 1890, (Incorporations Book SB 1/226, Clerk's Office, Kent County Courthouse) the Locust Grove Creamery was incorporated, with Thomas J. Shallcross, Samuel Augustus Merritt, James William Hurtt, Julian Hurtt, Robert Comly, John Carville Sutton, Jr., Charles Showaker Hill, George William Roeder, and John Wesley Boggs as the incorporating directors. Six of the nine are known by the surveyor to have owned large farms in the vicinity. The stated purposes of the creamery were "the manufacture of butter and cheese from milk and cream and the sale, transportation or other disposition of the products and refuse...also the manufacture of ice in connection with said creamery" as a possible future option. The capital stock was to be \$2,500, divided into 100

shares at a par value of \$25 each. This was a time of creamery building throughout the county, moving the processing of dairy products off at the least the larger farms and into consolidated facilities, most of which have not survived. Nor has the Locust Grove Creamery survived. It is said to have been located on the west side of Shallcross Neck Road, to the north of the Locust Grove General Store property. It is not now certain how long such creameries operated. Eventually the practice of hauling much of the county's unprocessed milk to the train stations, from which it was shipped to Wilmington and Philadelphia, displaced the creamery that many communities came to have. In later years, into the twentieth century, Locust Grove also had a fertilizer store. In 1890, according to Cram's atlas of that year in the possession of William McCann, the population of Locust Grove was 150. By comparison, that of Kennedyville was 175, Galena 475, and Chesterville 100.

The building of the Locust Grove Methodist Church in 1881-1882 was another indication of community growth and vitality. Along with the school and general store(s), it provided another focus for community activity. On December 8, 1881, the cornerstone was laid (Kent County News, Nov. 26, 1881). On December 23 the deed was made for the property (Kent County Land Records, SB 2/532). Seventy-five square perches (nearly half an acre) were given by William O. Shallcross and his wife, Ann, "in consideration of the attachment we have to the M. E. Church," though it is known that he, at least, was a member and vestryman of nearby Shrewsbury Episcopal Church. Shallcross (1823-1890) was the owner of a farm, Castle Carey, to the north on Shallcross Neck, which he purchased after coming to Kent County ca. 1850. He purchased additional acreage (87+ acres) to the south of Castle Carey from the estate of James Woodland, and it was from this land that the lot for the church (as well as the school and the store) seems to have been taken (JKH 9/449).

The church trustees at the time of the transaction were Thomas J. Shallcross (brother of William), William H. Kelly, George R. Vansant, W. F. Blackway, Robert Comly, Samuel J. Hill, and George M. Beasten. On July 24, 1882, a mortgage for \$250 was drawn between the trustees and the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Pennsylvania. This does not indicate the cost of the building, nor does it necessarily indicate that the amount was truly needed as a supplement to already-raised local funds to pay for the construction. It probably represents a standard amount or standard percentage mortgaged to a parent church body as a way to tie officially a congregation to it, a means of control for the parent body. The Presbyterians (e.g. Westminster Church in Georgetown) seem to have observed the same practice. In fact, Hallman, in his catalogue descriptions of Delmarva Methodist churches, states the total cost to have been \$2,500 and says also that the building was dedicated in the summer of 1882 by Bishop Andrews (p. 316).

Hallman offers only sketchy additional information about the history of the Locust Grove church. He speculates that there may have been an earlier building because prior to 1881-82 there at least had been "a society which had been contributing to missions." However, the 1877 atlas, a remarkably accurate document, indicates no church in the village. An old record book of the Galena Charge (Galena, Chesterville, and Locust Grove M. E. Churches) for 1883 to 1902 contains scattered references to the Locust Grove church; the

book is held by Olivet Church in Galena.

According to Miss Helen Shallcross, the congregation was always small. She stated that regular services ceased about 1932 or 1933, though the building was opened thereafter for occasional special services, baptisms, and weddings, the last such recorded event being a wedding in 1948. It finally closed about 1949 and its members transferred to the Galena or Kennedyville churches. The church property was sold to Albert H. Beasten, of the longtime store-owning family, in 1950 (Kent Co. Land Records, WHG 15/101). Thereafter it was used for storage; hay was stored in the gallery.

The rise and decline of the Locust Grove Methodist Church paralleled that of the community of Locust Grove. In the post-Civil War period of the nineteenth century Kent County's population was increasing, and farmers became prosperous by successful peach and pear crops. It was said that at one time much of Shallcross Neck was planted in orchards. During the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century Baltimore steamboats called, for fruit and other farm commodities, at Shallcross Wharf, on the Sassafra River at the northern end of the neck road that began at Locust Grove. On the main road north from Chestertown and with a train station and steamboat wharf near by, Locust Grove became a local center for numerous services. According to William McCann, in 1900 there were seven stores, of various types, in Locust Grove. With the arrival of motor vehicles, however, it became feasible to trade at the larger county commercial centers and seek other services there as well. Steamboat service at Shallcross wharf, likewise a victim of the rise of motor vehicles, did not endure. Simultaneously, during World War I and afterwards, pushed partly by increasingly mechanized farm operations, large numbers of Kent Countians left the county to seek employment elsewhere. The long decline in population was reversed only during the middle twentieth century. However, in the 1950s the final blow struck Locust Grove when the Route 213 was rerouted to bypass the village. Only the store known as the Locust Grove General Store continued operations after that date. In Locust Grove there are now only eight dwellings, the unoccupied school, and the general store, most recently operated as a shop selling second-hand items.

William McCann, the present owner, purchased the church, store, and school property, as well as one or more houses, in the 1970s. He envisioned a restored late nineteenth-early twentieth century village to be used as a crafts village. There were to be shops for artists and their crafts, a bakery, and a restaurant. However, the rehabilitation of Locust Grove has been only partially accomplished, with work done on some of the buildings. Only the old store has been used as a shop. Locust Grove's being off the main highway continues to be a handicap.

E. C. Hallman, The Garden of Methodism. Published for the Peninsula Conference of the Methodist Church, ca. 1948. (no place)

Joebe B. Stanton, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste 1840-1856. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

Martenet's Map of Kent County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1860.

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Md. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.



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Account Identifier: District - 02 **Account Number -** 008815

Owner Information

Owner Name: KARLIK, JOSEPH R &
NICOLE A. IN DEN BOSCH
Use: RESIDENTIAL
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: 29398 OLD LOCUST GROVE RD
KENNEDYVILLE MD 21645-3458
Deed Reference: 1) MLM/ 217/ 537
2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 29394 LOCUST GROVE ROAD
KENNEDYVILLE 21645
Zoning
Legal Description LOT 0.47 AC
29394 LOCUST GROVE ROAD
LOCUST GROVE

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
14	2D	21						82	Plat Ref:

Special Tax Areas **Town**
Ad Valorem
Tax Class

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		20,473.00 SF	
Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2003	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	34,830	23,860		
Improvements:	2,100	7,800		
Total:	36,930	31,660	31,660	31,660
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: MCCANN, WILLIAM V	Date: 03/28/2001	Price: \$117,000
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: MLM/ 217/ 537	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

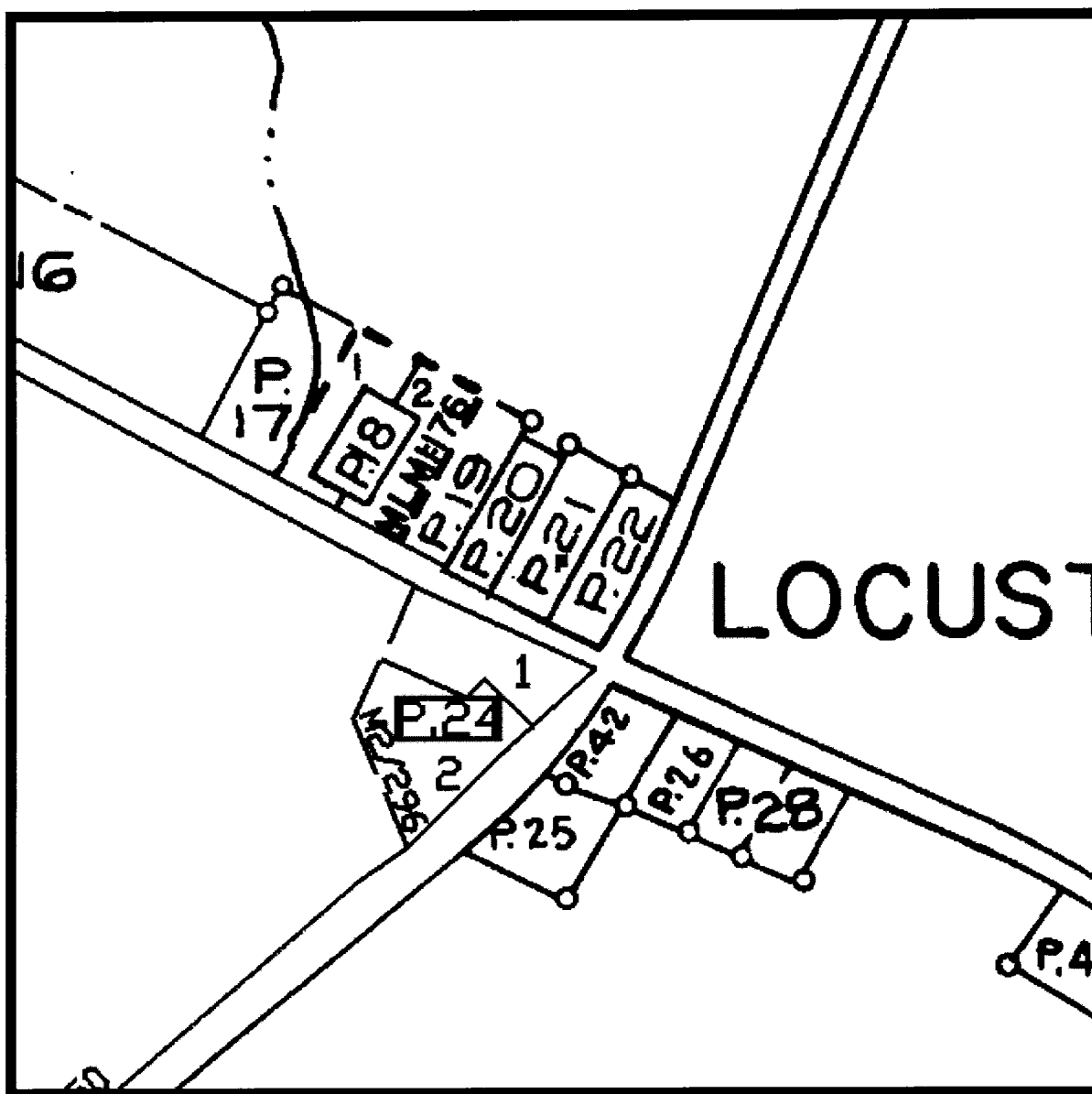
K-568



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
KENT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

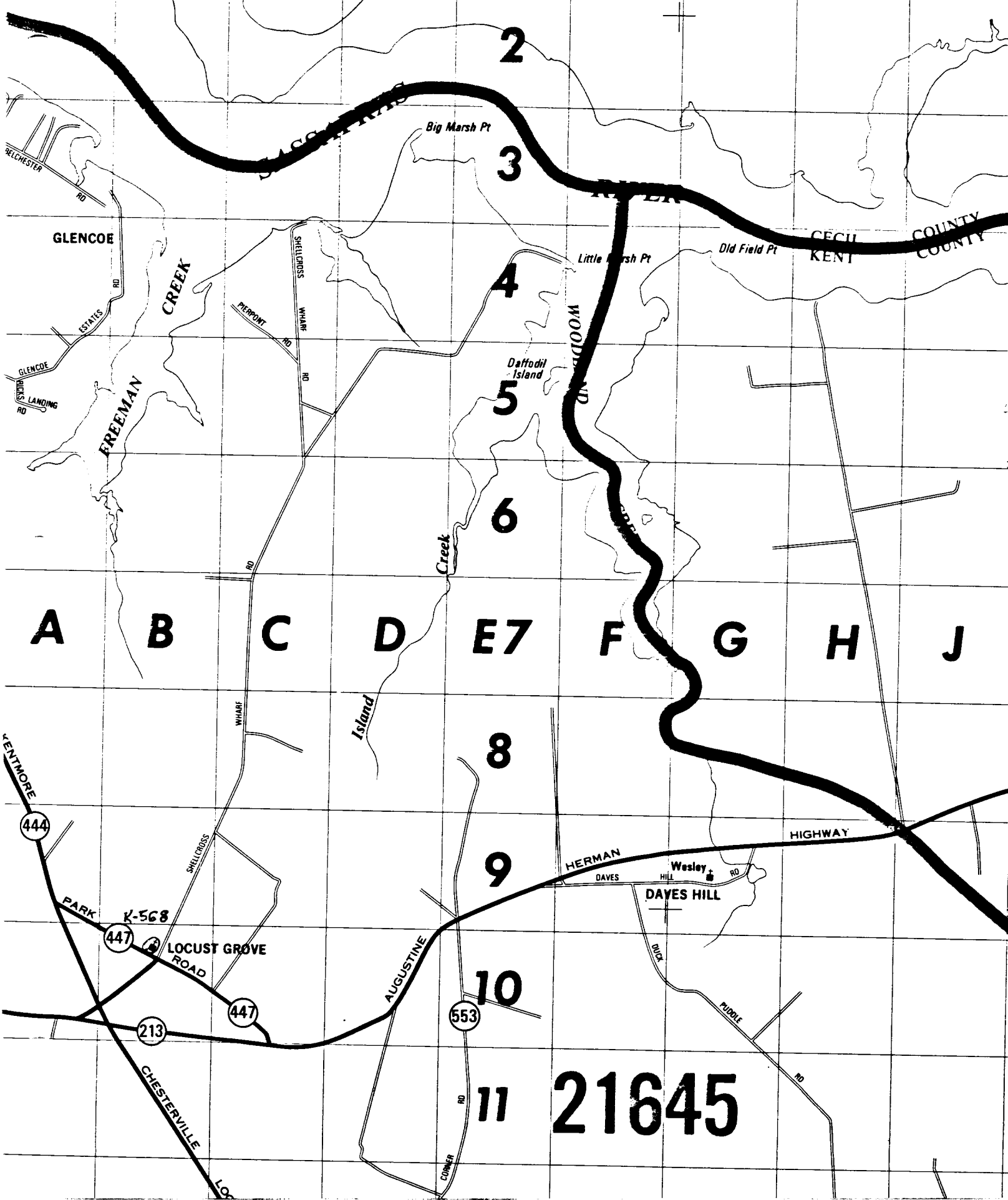
[Go Back](#)
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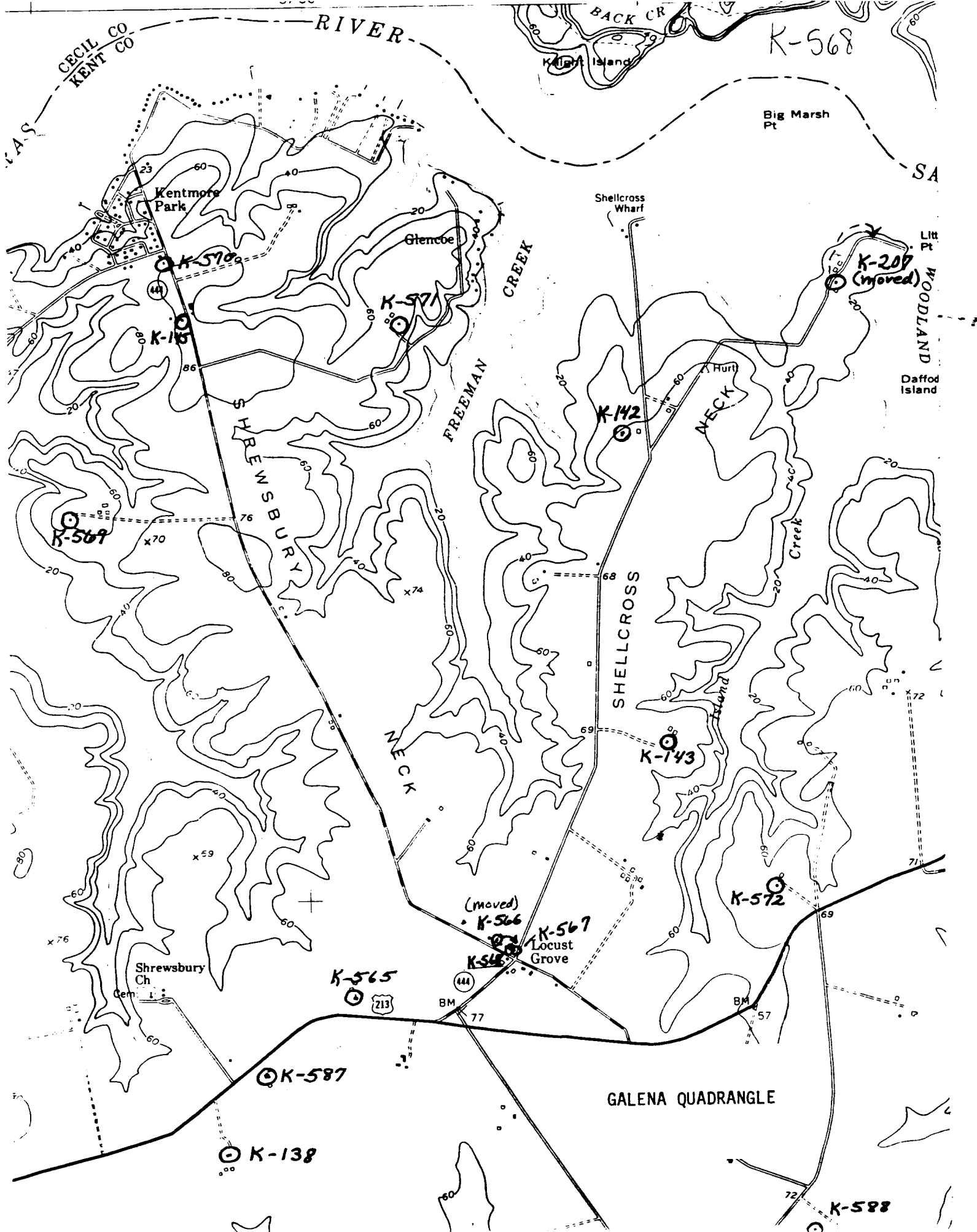
District - 02 **Account Number - 008815**



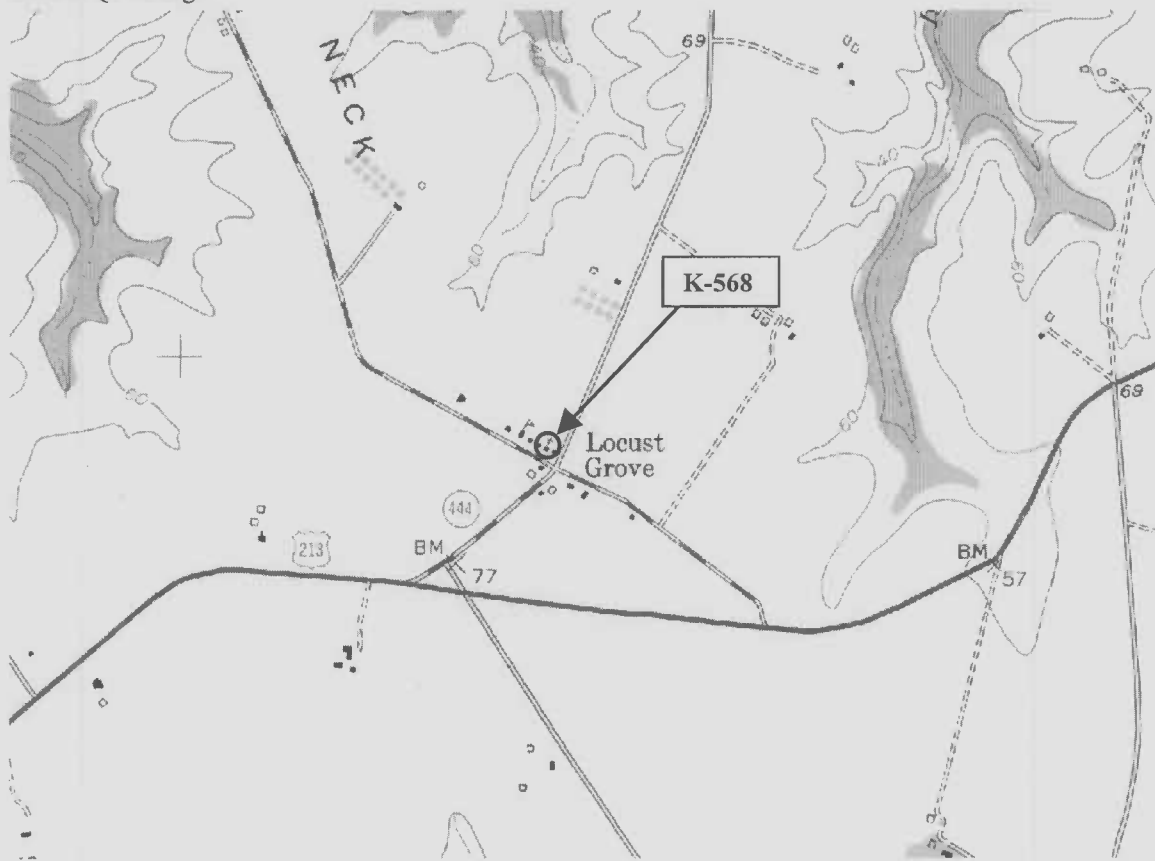
Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

See ADC's "CECIL COUNTY, MD STREET MAP" For Continuation





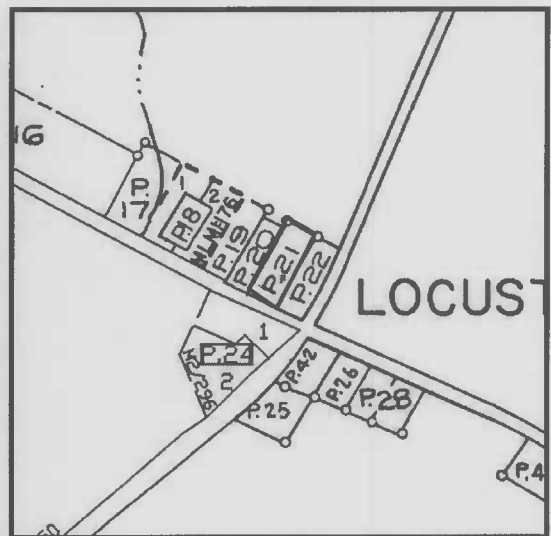
K-568
Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, site
29394 Old Locust Grove Road, Kennedyville
Galena Quadrangle



1992-95 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 14, p. 21



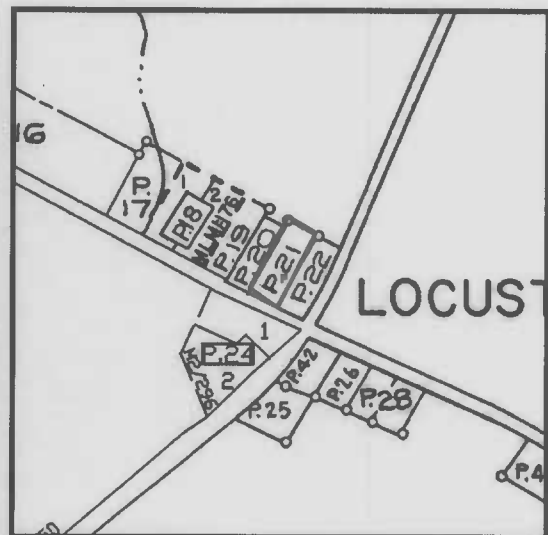
K-568
 Locust Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, site
 29394 Old Locust Grove Road, Kennedyville
 Galena Quadrangle



1992-95 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 14, p. 21





K-568

Locust Grove Methodist Church (now site)

Locust Grove

Copy of ca. 1973 photo, owner William McCann

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/25/86

View to north

1C568-13



K-568

Locust Grove Methodist Church (now site)

Locust Grove

Copy of ca. 1973 photo, owner William McCann

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/25/86

View to northeast

10568-10-